

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, claims 14, 16, 21-23 are withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention. Claims 12, 13, 17-20, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whipple, et al.

In this response, claim 1 has been amended, claim 19 has been cancelled and new claim 26 has been added. Upon entry of the amendments claims 12, 13, 17, 18, 20, 25 and 26 will be pending.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Whipple et al.:

Claims 12, 13, 17-20, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Whipple et al.

Whipple et al. describes a quick connect terminal for an electric power switch. According to the Examiner, Whipple discloses housing 17, first connection device 5511, second connection device 5522, contact carrier 53. The Examiner also asserts that Whipple discloses a screw clamp terminal at col. 3, lines 11-15 and connection terminals associated with a second pole.

Independent claim 12 has been amended add the feature of claim 19 to recite that the second connection device "includes at least one of a receiving hole and a lateral cutout configured to receive a respective male contact connected to the respective second electrical conductor." Claim 19 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully submit that Whipple fails to teach a second connection device having either a receiving hole or a lateral cutout configured to receive a respective male contact connected to the respective second electrical conductor. Nor has the Examiner asserted that this feature is present in Whipple et al. On the contrary, Whipple et al. only teaches male connection devices in the form of spade terminations 5511, 5512, 5521, and 5522 as part of terminal member 4. These male spade termination are not adapted or configured in any way to receive a male contact as recited in claim 12 as amended.

For at least the above reasons, therefore, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 12, 13, 17-20, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is respectfully requested.

New Claim 26:

New claim 26 has been added and recites an electrical switching device having at least one pole, the electrical switching device that includes the following features:

a housing including an insulating material; and

an incoming terminal contact and an outgoing terminal contact associated with a first pole, each of the terminal contacts including a respective first connection device disposed inside the housing and configured for connection of a respective first external electrical conductor, at least one of the terminal contacts including a respective second connection device disposed inside the housing and configured for pluggable connection of a respective second electrical conductor, wherein the respective first connection device includes at least one of a screw clamp terminal, a spring clamp terminal, and an insulation-piercing terminal.

Applicants respectfully submit that Whipple et al. fails to teach the additional features that the "first connection device includes at least one of a screw clamp terminal, a spring clamp terminal, and an insulation-piercing terminal." Instead, Whipple et al. describes only spade terminations 5511, 5512, 5521, and 5522 as connection devices of a terminal contact. Spade terminations are not a screw clamp terminal or a spring clamp terminal or an insulation-piercing terminal as those terms are understood to a person of ordinary skill in the art and used and described in Applicants' specification.

Each and every point raised in the Final Office Action mailed October 18, 2007 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

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